

ITEA VIRGINICA L., forma **abbreviata**, f. nov., foliis reductis 1–2.5 cm. longis 0.5–2 cm. latis; racemis densissimis oblongo-cylindricis 1–2.2 cm. longis 1–1.4 cm. crassis; pedunculis 0.2–1 cm. longis; pedicellis approximatis 1–2 mm. longis; floribus approximatis.—VIRGINICA: peaty and sandy shore of Whitefield's Millpond, southwest of Corinth, Southampton County, June 5, 1946, *M. L. Fernald & H. E. Moore*, no. 15,094 (TYPE in Herb. Gray.; ISOTYPE in Herb. Phil. Acad.).

Itea virginica forma *abbreviata* rather strikingly suggests *Fothergilla parvifolia* Kearney but it is, in all technical characters, clearly a very reduced extreme of *Itea*. Although in *Itea virginica* there is considerable variation in length of raceme, the primary or leading racemes are 3–17 cm. long, on often elongate peduncles, and the flowers are sufficiently remote as to leave the rachis and the pedicels clearly evident, while the leaves at flowering time are 3–8 cm. or more long and proportionally broad. The dwarf forma *abbreviata*, on the other hand, has the flowering tips with leaves only 1–2.5 cm. long and 0.5–2 cm. broad, the very short-peduncled racemes so dense that the pedicels and rachis are hidden, the densely compact oblong-cylindric racemes only 1–2.2 cm. long and 1–1.4 cm. thick. Only one shrub was noticed, but at the time of Dr. Moore's and my visit the water of the pond was abnormally high and only a few rods of the bordering and partly submerged thicket were examined, by wading in water well above our knees. The remaining four or more miles of shore will presumably yield other such shrubs.

In his Manual of the Southeastern Flora, 600, Small attempted to clarify matters by adding after the description of *Itea virginica* the explanatory comment: "This shrub often grows intermixed with other shrubs which produce an abundance of racemes of white or pale-pink flowers". Near the outlet of Whitefield's Pond the associated shrubs for the most part do not "produce an abundance of racemes of white or pale-pink flowers": such shrubs as *Salix caroliniana* Michx., *Myrica heterophylla* Raf., *Amelanchier* sp. (with short corymbs of nearly ripe fruit), *Vitis rotundifolia* (with panicles of greenish flowers), *Vaccinium* spp. (with corymbs of mature berries), and a complex series of fruiting shrubs of the *Fraxinus caroliniana* alliance. The only shrubs noted "with an abundance of racemes of white or pale-pink flowers" were typical *Itea virginica*, *Clethra alnifolia* and *Leuco-*

thoë racemosa. Among these *Itea virginica*, forma *abbreviata* stood out vividly on account of its dense and very white racemes! —M. L. FERNALD.

SALICORNIA EUROPAEA L. var. **simplex** (Pursh), comb. nov. *S. herbacea*, β *simplex* Pursh, Fl. Am. Sept. 2 (1814). *S. europaea*, var. *pachystachya* sensu Fernald in RHODORA, ix. 206 (1907), probably *S. herbacea*, β *pachystachya* Koch, Synop. ed. 2: 693 (1844).

Pursh's *Salicornia herbacea*, β *simplex*, "ramis simplicissimis, caule prostrato . . . common along the sea-coast" of north-eastern America, is certainly the plant which I intended as *S. europaea*, var. *pachystachya*. It is either prostrate or weakly ascending, with long, tapering, simple spikes 3–10 cm. long and 3–5 mm. thick, these maturing later than the spikes of typical upright *S. europaea*. It closely matches European material sent out as *S. herbacea* var. *pachystachya*, but I have not seen Koch's own material. Even if it is identical with that it must take the first varietal name used for it, so long as it is considered a variety.—M. L. FERNALD.

CORNUS RACEMOSA IN QUEBEC.—*Cornus racemosa* Lam., which is L'Héritier's *C. paniculata*, was expected to be found in Quebec, since its known distribution reads as follows: Maine to Ontario and Minnesota, south to Georgia and Nebraska.

During August, 1945, while collecting seeds of wild plants for the *Delectus Seminum*, issued annually by the Montreal Botanical Garden, the authors were struck by the curious redness of a shoulder-high bush. This grew in a swale near a small settlement, somewhat reminiscent of John Steinbeck's "Tortilla Flat," known as Brosseau Road, located just across the St. Lawrence River from Montreal and midway between St. Lambert and Laprairie. Its fruits had fallen and the red tint of the shrub itself was ascribed to the remaining pedicels. The latter already have been described by L'Héritier: "*Peduncululi teretes, fructiferi purpurascetes*" (CORNUS. Paris. 1788).

Herbarium specimens were secured. The other important specific characters corroborating, this plant proved to be *Cornus racemosa*.